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SIEGES.

No. IV.

19. SIEGE OF MONTE VIDEO, 1806.—This strong town on the Rio Plata, was taken by assault by the British forces after a desperate conflict, in which one-third of the besiegers were killed or wounded. The carnage in the town also was dreadful. In 1807, Monte Video was evacuated by the English, and given up to the Spaniards; so that in a military point of view, all this waste of human life, and extremity of suffering, appear to have been entirely useless.

20. BOMBARDMENT OF HAVRE-DE-GRACE, 1759.—Havre was bombarded by a British squadron under Admiral Rodney, for fifty-two hours without intermission, and set on fire by the shells in several places. The terror in the town was so great that all the inhabitants forsook their dwellings and fled into the country—*Life of Rodney*.

21. SIEGE OF MONS, IN FLANDERS, 1691.—Mons was invested by the French forces under Louis 14th. The inhabitants, considering that they had a right to avert the calamities of a siege, compelled the governor to surrender the town, whereby a vast amount of human misery was prevented.—*Bois-le-duc* followed the example of Mons; Bois being menaced by a French army in 1794, the inhabitants refused to submit to the horrors of a siege, and compelled the governor to surrender the town.—*History of England*.

22. SIEGE OF PORTOBELLO.—Admiral Vernon, with a British squadron, attacked Portobello, in 1739. The forts were soon carried, and the city surrendered. Elated with this success, a grand armament was sent to annoy other Spanish settlements in the West Indies, and attacks were made on forts Lagaro and Carthagera; both these enterprises were, however, unsuccessful, and the English lost, by sickness and slaughter, 20,000 soldiers and sailors. These expeditions arose out of the dispute with Spain about *cutting logwood* at Campeachy; the court of Madrid having agreed to pay the sum of £95,000, as a compensation for the damage sustained by the British merchants. The money, however, was not forthcoming, and hostilities were commenced. By the "logwood war," the nation lost more than 100,000 of her sons, and expended 46 millions sterling! Commerce was greatly embarrassed, and the valuable trade with Spain ruined. In the space of two years the enemy's pirates captured more than four hundred merchant vessels belonging to Great Britain.—*See Bigland's History of England*.

23. STORMING OF BADAJOS, 1812.—Badajos was strongly fortified, and garrisoned by the French forces, but was ultimately taken by storm by the allied army under the Duke of Wellington. Such was the destruction of human life in these operations, that upwards of 8,000 of the slain were buried in the ditch of the castle; nearly *five thousand of these were British troops*. Persons who visited Badajos in 1837 state that the city, and once beautiful neighborhood, are but little recovered from the effects of the war.

24. STORMING OF ST. SEBASTIAN.—This strong city in the north of Spain was held by the French, and attacked by the allies by sea and land. A desperate assault on the 25th July, 1813, was unsuccessful, and the assailants were repulsed with great loss. The final attack

was on the 31st of August following, when the deadly fire from the forts was such, that the English troops dropped like corn before the reaper, insomuch that in a few minutes the river through which they passed to the breach was *choked* with the bodies of their killed and wounded countrymen; over them, however, the advancing divisions pressed on. A few hours after the place was taken by storm, and a horrible scene of plunder and rapine ensued,—houses ransacked—the churches profaned—wine and spirit cellars broken open, and the troops became mad with intoxication—all order and discipline were abandoned. Great part of the city was burnt in this disorder, and few houses remained except in ruins. On the dawn of the 1st September, the dead which strewed the streets of St. Sebastian were so numerous, that it was a wonder to all beholders where they could have found room to sleep. In the taking of St. Sebastian 4,000 English troops perished.—*Captain Thrush.—Blackwood.*

CARLYLE'S DESCRIPTION OF WAR.

“What, speaking in quite unofficial language, is the net purport and upshot of war? To my own knowledge, for example, there dwell and toil, in the British village of Dumdrudge, usually some five hundred souls. From these, by certain ‘natural enemies’ of the French, there are successively selected, during the French war, say thirty able bodied men. Dumdrudge, at her own expense, has suckled and nursed them; she has, not without difficulty and sorrow, fed them up to manhood, and even trained them to crafts, so that one can weave, another build, another hammer, and the weakest can stand under thirty stone avoirdupois. Nevertheless, amid much weeping and swearing, they are selected; all dressed in red, and shipped away, at the public charges some two thousand miles, or say only to the south of Spain, and fed there till wanted. And now, to that same spot, in the south of Spain, are thirty similar French artizans, from a French Dumdrudge, in like manner wending; till at length, after infinite effort, the two parties come into actual juxtaposition; and thirty stand fronting thirty, each with a gun in his hand. Straightway the word ‘Fire!’ is given; and they blow the souls out of one another; and in place of sixty brisk, useful craftsmen, the world has sixty dead carcasses, which it must bury, and anew shed tears for. Had these men any quarrel? Busy as the devil is, not the smallest! They lived far enough apart; were the entirest strangers; nay, in so wide a universe, there was even, unconsciously, by commerce, some mutual helpfulness between them. How then? Simpletons! their governors had fallen out; and, instead of shooting one another, had the cunning to make these poor block-heads shoot. Alas, so it is in Deutschland, and hitherto in all other lands; still, as of old, ‘what devilry soever kings do, the Greeks must pay the piper!’”

“In that fiction of the English Smollett, it is true, the final cessation of war is perhaps prophetically shadowed forth, where the two natural enemies in person take each a tobacco pipe, filled with brimstone, light the same, and smoke in one another's faces, till the weaker gives in. But from such predicted peace-era what blood-filled trenches and contentious centuries may still divide us!”